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Response To Restriction Requirement

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Status of the Claims

Claim 1. (Original) A positioning assembly of a crimper apparatus for automatically positioning a first cylindrical member for crimping to a second cylindrical member comprising:
a first plate and a second plate, the first plate having a nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member and/or at least a portion of the second cylindrical member, the second plate having a nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member and/or at least a portion of the second cylindrical member,

the first plate constructed and arranged to be separated from the second plate in a first position, and in a second position the first plate immediately adjacent to the second plate, when in the second position the first plate and the second plate situated such that a first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member would be in proper placement for joining.

Claim 2. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 1, wherein the first plate has a nest longitudinally aligned with a nest on the second plate.

Claim 3. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 2, wherein the first plate has a nest longitudinally aligned with a nest on the second plate and with a nest on a third plate, the third plate immediately adjacent to the second plate.

Claim 4. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 1, wherein a first biasing member maintains the first position when activated.

Claim 5. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 4, wherein a second biasing member maintains the second position when the first biasing member is not activated.

Claim 6. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 4 wherein the first biasing member is at least one solenoid.

Claim 7. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 5 wherein the second biasing member comprises a spring loaded force.

Claim 8. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 1, wherein both the at least one plate and the second plate have a plurality of nests, at least two nests on the at least one plate being longitudinally unaligned from one another and being longitudinally aligned with nests on the second plate.

Claim 9. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 8, wherein a third plate with at least

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two nests longitudinally unaligned with one another are longitudinally aligned with nests on the first plate and the second plate.

Claim 10. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 1, wherein the first cylindrical member is selected from the group consisting of radiopaque marker bands, stent retaining members, hubs, catheter tips, or any combination thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 10, wherein the second cylindrical member is a catheter tube.

Claim 12. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 10, wherein the second cylindrical member is the inner tube of a catheter.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) A method of crimping a first cylindrical member to a second cylindrical member using the positioning assembly of claim 1 comprising:

disposing the first cylindrical member about the second cylindrical member;

disposing the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member into the nests of the assembly 10;

activating the apparatus such that the plates move from the first position to the second position;

crimping the first cylindrical member to the second cylindrical member.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the first cylindrical member is selected from the group consisting of radiopaque marker bands, stent retaining members, hubs, catheter tips, or any combination thereof.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the second cylindrical member is a catheter tube or an inner tube of a catheter.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) A method of crimping a first cylindrical member to a second cylindrical member using the positioning assembly of claim 3 comprising:

disposing the first cylindrical member about the second cylindrical member;

disposing the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member into the nests of the assembly;

activating the apparatus such that the plates move from the first position to the second position;

crimping the first cylindrical member to the second cylindrical member.

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Claim 17. (Withdrawn) A method of crimping a first cylindrical member to a second cylindrical member using the positioning assembly of claim 7 comprising:

disposing the first cylindrical member about the second cylindrical member;

disposing the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member into the nests of the assembly;

activating the apparatus such that the plates move from the first position to the second position;

crimping the first cylindrical member to the second cylindrical member.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) A method of crimping a first cylindrical member to a second cylindrical member using the positioning assembly of claim 9 comprising:

disposing the first cylindrical member about the second cylindrical member;

disposing the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member into the nests of the assembly;

activating the apparatus such that the plates move from the first position to the second position;

crimping the first cylindrical member to the second cylindrical member.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) A method of crimping a first cylindrical member to a second cylindrical member using the positioning assembly of claim 12 comprising:

disposing the first cylindrical member about the second cylindrical member;

disposing the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member into the nests of the assembly;

activating the apparatus such that the plates move from the first position to the second position;

crimping the first cylindrical member to the second cylindrical member.

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